

Council Study Session 2 Focus: Couplet

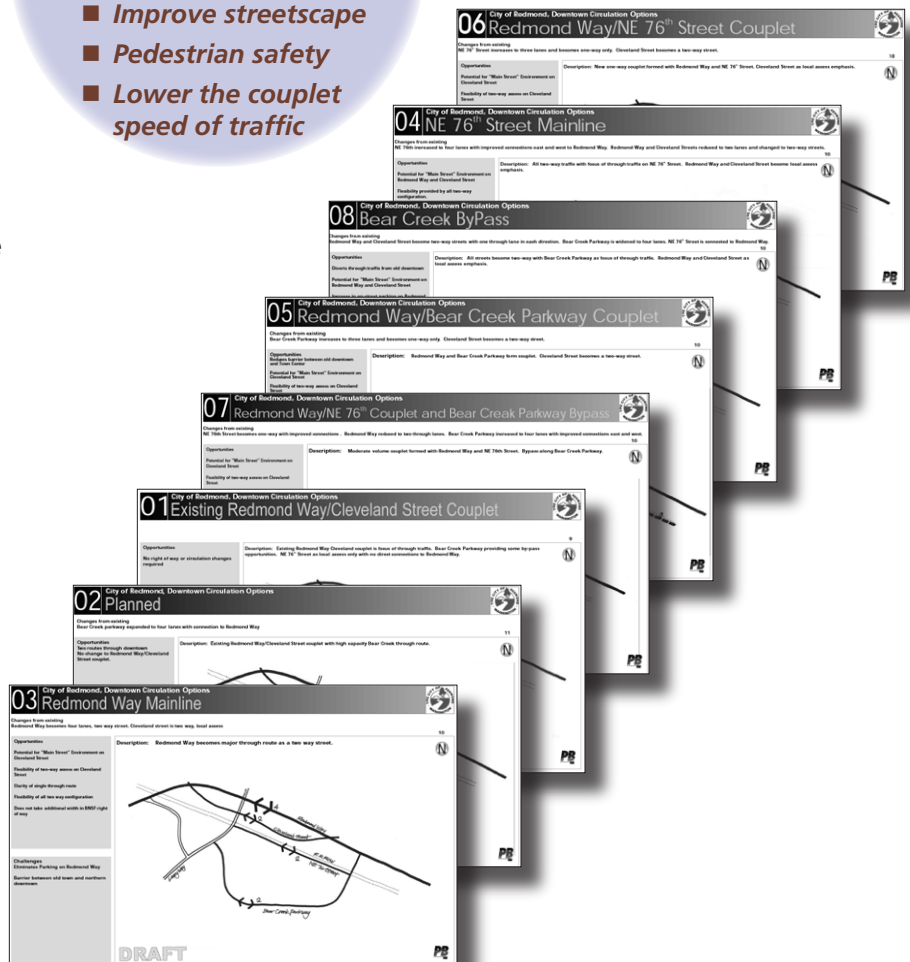
Council kicked off the discussion of transportation issues in the downtown with a focus on the Redmond Way and Cleveland Street Couplet. As the heart of downtown, a decision to keep or uncouple the couplet would help shape the circulation plan for the rest of downtown.

The existing couplet successfully moves large volumes of traffic through downtown, but acts as a barrier between Old Town and Redmond Town Center and does not provide the “Main Street” environment envisioned by the community. Council reviewed eight alternatives for the couplet which aimed to fulfill two of the guiding principles laid out at the start of the project, namely to make Redmond Way and Cleveland the “Main Street” of downtown and to contribute to a comfortable pedestrian environment while accommodating through traffic.

Each of the options explored took a different approach to how traffic was accommodated in the downtown. The options ranged from a new couplet with Redmond Way and NE 76th, to returning Redmond Way to the major through route downtown while making Cleveland Street a smaller-scale local street. The opportunities and challenges these options presented were discussed in terms of vehicle movement, urban form, access to business, and impacts on the BNSF right-of-way.

Stakeholders on Couplets

- *Disparity of opinion between retaining or removing couplet*
- *Increase mobility for autos & pedestrians*
- *Improve business environment*
- *Improve streetscape*
- *Pedestrian safety*
- *Lower the couplet speed of traffic*



Outcomes

- ☑ Encouraged development of Cleveland Street as “Main Street”
- ☑ Developed Bear Creek Parkway as an alternate route across town
- ☑ Discouraged using BNSF (NE 76th Street) as a major street
- ☑ Improved the connection between Old Town and Redmond Town Center